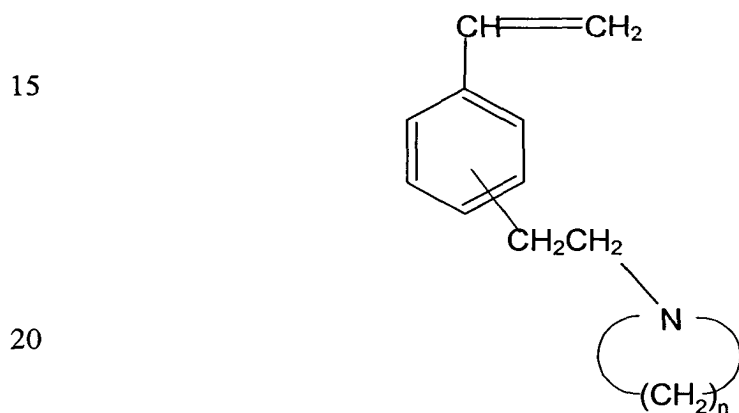
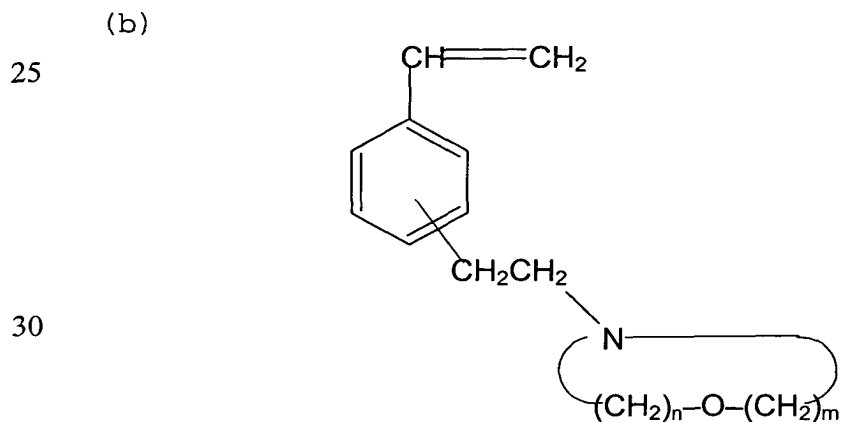


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for synthesizing a rubbery polymer that
5 comprises copolymerizing at least one conjugated diolefin
monomer and at least one functionalized monomer in an
organic solvent at a temperature which is within the range
of 20°C to about 100°C, wherein the polymerization is
initiated with an anionic initiator, wherein the
10 polymerization is conducted in the absence of conventional
polar modifiers, and wherein the functionalized monomer has
a structural formula selected from the group consisting of
(a)



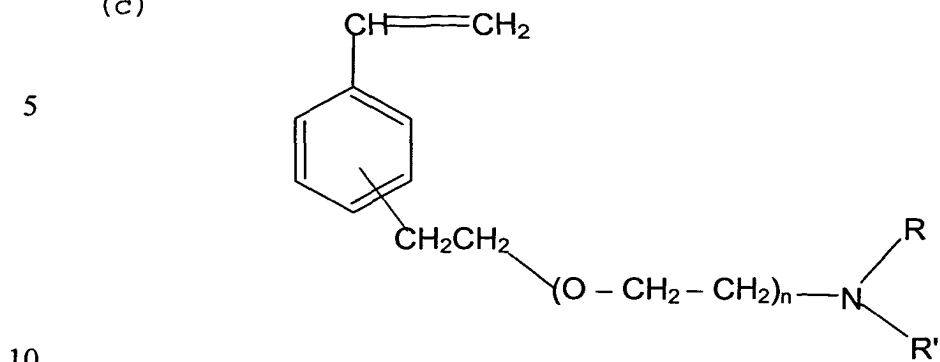
wherein n represents an integer from 4 to about 10,



wherein n represents an integer from 0 to about 10 and

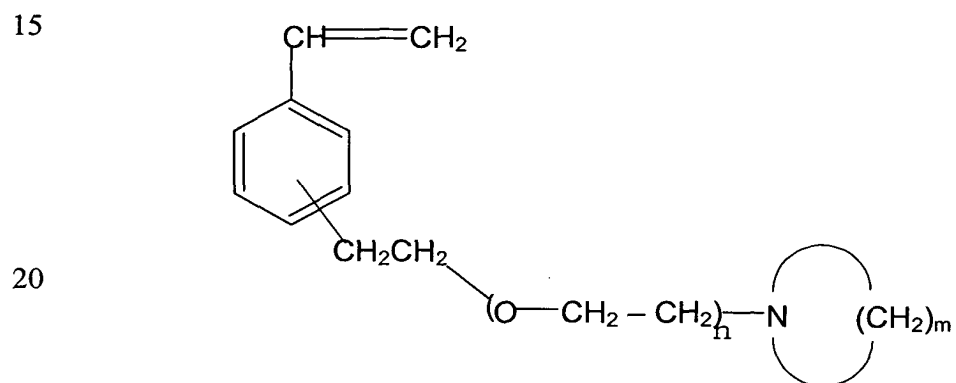
wherein m represents an integer from 0 to about 10, with the proviso that the sum of n and m is at least 4;

(c)



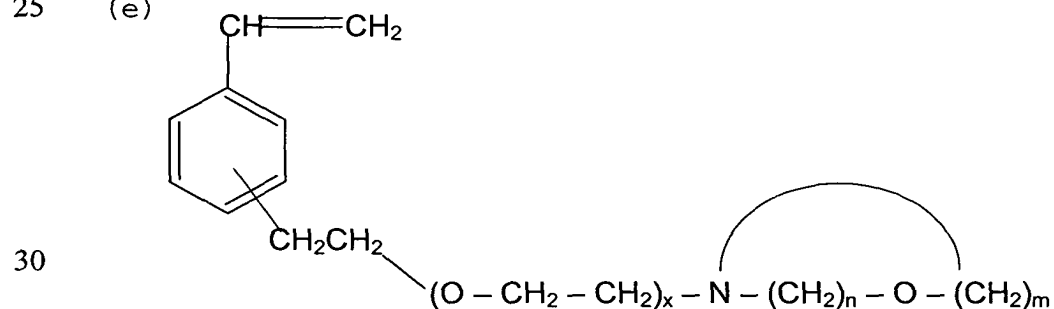
wherein n represents an integer from 1 to about 10, and wherein R and R' can be the same or different and represent alkyl groups containing from 1 to about 10 carbon atoms;

(d)



wherein n represents an integer from 1 to about 10 and wherein m represents an integer from 4 to about 10;

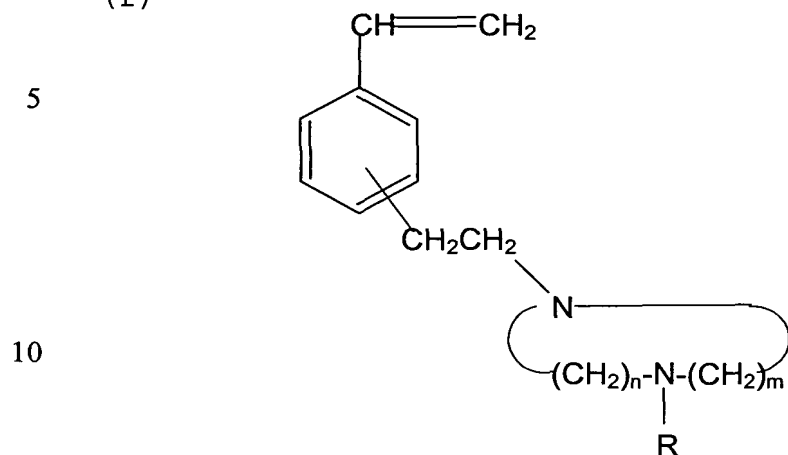
(e)



wherein x represents an integer from 1 to about 10, wherein n represents an integer from 0 to about 10 and wherein m

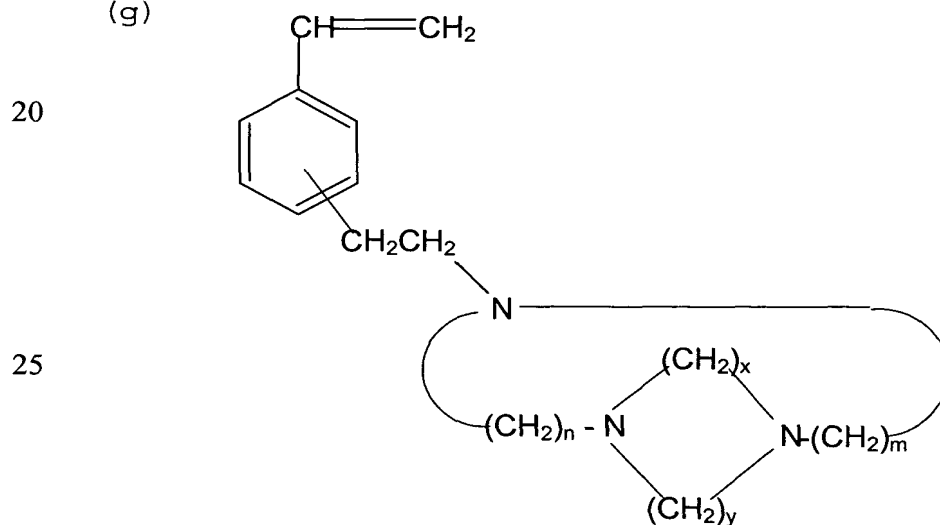
represents an integer from 0 to about 10, with the proviso that the sum of n and m is at least 4;

(f)



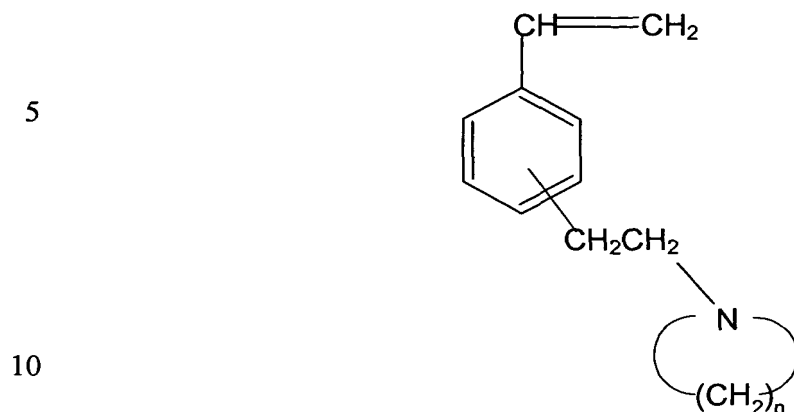
wherein R represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group containing from 1 to about 10 carbon atoms, wherein n represents an integer from 0 to about 10, and wherein m represents an integer from 0 to about 10, with the proviso that the sum of n and m is at least 4; and

(g)



wherein n represents an integer from 0 to about 10, wherein m represents an integer from 0 to about 10, wherein x represents an integer from 1 to about 10, and wherein y represents an integer from 1 to about 10.

2. A process as specified in claim 1 wherein the functionalized monomer is of the structural formula



wherein n represents an integer from 4 to about 10.,

3. A process as specified in claim 2 wherein n
15 represents 4.

4. A process as specified in claim 2 wherein n
represents 6.

20 5. A process as specified in claim 3 wherein the polymerization is initiated with an alkyl lithium compound.

6. A process as specified in claim 2 wherein the functionalized monomer and the conjugated diolefin monomer
25 are terpolymerized with styrene.

7. A process as specified in claim 2 wherein from 0.05 phm to about 20 phm of the functionalized monomer is polymerized.

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8. A process as specified in claim 2 wherein from 0.1 phm to about 10 phm of the functionalized monomer is polymerized.

9. A process as specified in claim 2 wherein from 0.1 phm to about 1 phm of the functionalized monomer is polymerized.

5

10. A process as specified in claim 2 wherein from 0.3 phm to about 0.7 phm of the functionalized monomer is polymerized.

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11. A process as specified in claim 5 wherein the polymerization is initiated with 0.01 phm to about 0.1 phm of the alkyl lithium compound.

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12. A process as specified in claim 5 wherein the polymerization is initiated with 0.025 phm to about 0.07 phm of the alkyl lithium compound.

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13. A process as specified in claim 2 wherein the polymerization temperature is within the range of about 45°C to about 100°C.

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14. A process as specified in claim 2 wherein the polymerization temperature is within the range of about 60°C to about 90°C.

15. A process as specified in claim 6 wherein the conjugated diolefin monomer is 1,3-butadiene.

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16. A process as specified in claim 6 wherein the conjugated diolefin monomer is isoprene.

17. A process as specified in claim 2 wherein the rubbery polymer is coupled with a tin halide.

18. A process as specified in claim 2 wherein the rubbery polymer is coupled with a silicon halide.

5 19. A process as specified in claim 5 wherein the alkyl lithium compound contains from 1 to about 8 carbon atoms.

10 20. A process as specified in claim 5 wherein the alkyl lithium compound is normal-butyl lithium.